



SUBJECT: Lebanese **HEZBOLLAH**

Date: 07 February 2024

Assessment Period: 05/01/2023-02/01/2024

Intelligence Product by:

Jesse Robert, ATO-II, CAS, CPO, CCI, ILO, TLO

Counterintelligence & Digital Targeting Officer

Counterterrorism Intelligence Analyst, J.r, (All Source) Multi-INT

Counterintelligence Office-(**Special Activities Directorate**)

The Counterterrorism Group

Hezbollah

Highlights:

Established In: 1985

Established By: Abbas al-Musawi, Subhi al-Tufayli

Also Known As: Hizballah, Party of Allah, Party of God, Hizb Allah, Hizbola

Country Of Origin: Lebanon

Leaders: Hassan Nasrallah

Key Members: Hassan Nasrallah, Talal Hamiyah

Iconic Persons: Imad Mughniyeh, Mustapha Badreddine, Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah

Terror Designation: October 8, 1997

Operational Area: Lebanon, United States, Asia, Canada, Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Margarita Island, Columbia, Cyprus, Europe such as France, Spain, and Germany.

Number Of Members: 65,000

Involved In: Assassinations, Bombings, Suicide attacks, Recruiting Operations, Terror financing, Kidnapping, Hostages, Narcotics Trafficking, Money Laundering, overall Criminal Enterprise

Web Address: www.moqawama.org.lb



DEP Risk Framework:

Overview: The US-Mexico border spans approximately 2000 miles, four states(4), and an incredibly diverse amount of terrain ranging from major urban areas to large stretches of desert. It is well known and established that Hezbollah and other ideologically aligned **FTO** have a large presence in South America and a smaller, but operational network within the U.S territories. The current vulnerabilities at the U.S border pose a unique, significantly **HIGH** threat to the United States, in that, its **highly probable** more operatives are continuing to clandestinely cross the U.S. border undetected, being dismissed as a “gottaway” by CBP and other federal entities. In 2023 several independent Hezbollah operatives were convicted CONUS, which revealed insight into their planning, operational activities and objectives (TTP). Hezbollah operates via CONUS mainly for fundraising opportunities, but also conducts pre-operational surveillance on hard and soft targets of significance. An undermined number of operatives reside CONUS awaiting operational directives for the attack of pre-identified and determined targets packages upon confirmed orders from senior Hezbollah, IRGC Quds or Iranian leadership. **This report is being finalized & updated (12/21/23) to reflect data since the October 7th, 2023 attack on Israel by ‘Hamas’ a regional, strategic, Palestinian, Sunni Islamist ally of Hezbollah.**

Historical Involvement & Overview:

Hezbollah, Arabic for “Party of God.” Common alternate spellings: Hezbollah, Hizbullah, Hizb`allah, Hizballah) a.k.a. Party of God; Islamic Jihad Organization; Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. is a heavily Iranian-sponsored, Lebanon-based, internationally sanctioned terrorist group, with an anti-Israel and anti-U.S. agenda. Hezbollah is primarily based in Lebanon but has carried out many terrorist and criminal operations around the world. Hezbollah is also a political wing and social services provider. Most notably for the purpose of this report, they currently operate in South and Central America and inside the United States, but also in [Europe](#). Hezbollah is not only a designated foreign terrorist organization (FTO), but is also considered a Transnational Criminal Organization (TCO) as it relates to their dealing in illicit narcotics (cocaine) trafficking and facilitation. Despite popular belief, Hezbollah is far more dangerous than your typical, rogue terrorist group. Hezbollah actually runs a whole country and has even won seats in Lebanon’s parliament several times since the 1992 elections. Hezbollah has grown into the world’s most dangerous terrorist ‘para-military force’ on earth with a standing militia force that is much bigger, much better funded, and much better armed than the actual Lebanese Armed Forces which are funded by the government of Lebanon. Hezbollah’s criminal networks have been discovered in Africa, North America, South America, Central America, and European regions. They operate a group of vast criminal networks consisting of money laundering, drug trafficking, illegal tobacco, used cars you name it they are likely connected and they also have strong affiliations and networks with many underground criminal organizations around the world, such as the Mexican and Colombian Cartels. The proceeds from all these illegal operations are sent back to Lebanon to support military and terror operations against Israel and around the world but to also provide goods and services to the people of Lebanon.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Hezbollah was established by: Abbas al-Musawi, and Subhi al-Tufayli in 1985 Hezbollah has been traditionally led by a Shura Council, which is a council of senior leaders who make decisions on behalf of the organization. The [Shura Council](#) is headed by **Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah**, who has been the group's leader since 1992. Other members include : Sheikh Naim Qassem (Deputy Secretary General), Sheikh Mohammad Yazbek (Judicial Council chairman), sayyed Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyed (Political Council chairman), sayyed Hashem Saffieddine (Executive Council Chairman), Hussein al-Khalil (Secretary General's political aide), Mohammad Raad (Chairman of the Parliamentary Council and head of the Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc).

Below the Shura Council, Hezbollah has a military wing, known as the **Islamic Resistance**, which is responsible for the group's military strategic and tactical operations. The commander of the **Islamic Resistance** was first believed to be Mustafa Badreddine, who was later killed in Syria in 2016. Other key military leaders include **Talal Hamiyah**, who is now believed to be in charge of the group's operations . Other commanders have been killed. At this time it's not accurately known who actually fills these roles. Additionally, Hezbollah has a political wing, which is involved in Lebanese politics and has a presence in their parliament. The head of the political wing is believed to be [Hashem Safieddine](#), who is also a member of the Shura Council. Hezbollah receives most military training, weapons such as small arms, rockets, and up to **700 million** dollars a year in financial support, specifically from Iran, its [Quds Force](#) and MOIS, which is Iran's Ministry of Intelligence & Security. It also receives political support from Syria. Hezbollah also fought against Israel in the 2006 Lebanon War.

“After the 2006 to 2008 Lebanese political protests and major clashes, a national unity government was formed, this gave Hezbollah control of eleven of thirty cabinet seats, effectively providing veto power to the organization. In August 2008, Lebanon’s new Cabinet unanimously approved a draft policy statement, which secures Hezbollah's existence as an [“armed organization”](#) and guarantees its right to liberate or recover occupied lands. Since 2012, Hezbollah has helped the Syrian government during the civil war in its fight against the Syrian opposition, which Hezbollah has described as a Zionist plot to destroy the alliance with Assad and Israel. Once seen as a resistance movement throughout much of the Arab world, the image on which the group’s legitimacy rested was severely impacted due to the sectarian nature of the Syrian Civil War in which it has become embodied.”

In efforts to keep with the principle of “Guardianship” of the Islamic Jurists (**velayat-e faqih**), it “concentrates all authority and powers” in its religious leaders, whose decisions then “flows from the Ulma down to the entire community.”

Overall the [Supreme Leader](#) of Iran, also referred to as **Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution**^[2] رهبر معظم (انقلاب اسلامی), *Rahbar-e Moazam-e Enqelâb-e Eslâmi* or [Ali Khamenei](#) is the ultimate clerical authority, Hezbollah’s leaders like **Hassan Nasrallah** will normally appeal to him for guidance and for direct operational directives in cases where Hezbollah’s overall leadership body is too divided over issues or has failed to reach any consensus on



a certain subject. Since the death of Iran's first Supreme Leader, [Ayatollah Khomeini](#), Hezbollah's governing bodies have developed a more "independent role" and have appealed to Iran much less. Since the Second Lebanon War, however, Iran has restructured Hezbollah to limit the power Hassan Nasrallah holds, and has invested billions of dollars to rehabilitate Hezbollah.

It's important to note that Hezbollah has five subgroups that operate under the **Islamic Resistance**. Those groups are:

The five of the most well-known groups: **Badr Unit**, **Nasr Unit**, **Al Jail Unit**, **Aziz Unit**, **Radwan Unit**, **Amphibious Unit**, and **Lebanese Resistance Brigades**.

1. **Radwan Special Unit:** Named after Imad Mughniyah, a senior Hezbollah commander who was killed in 2008, this group is responsible for carrying out attacks against Israeli targets.
2. **Jihad Council:** This group is responsible for strategic planning and decision-making within the Islamic Resistance.
3. **Foreign Relations Unit:** This group is responsible for building alliances with other militant and political groups around the world.
4. **Counterintelligence Unit:** This group is responsible for detecting and neutralizing enemy intelligence operations against Hezbollah.
5. **Reconnaissance Unit:** This group is responsible for gathering intelligence on potential targets, such as Israeli military bases or infrastructure.

https://hezbollah.org/themes/bricklett/org_chart/organizational_chart_edit3.pdf

According to some sources the [The Jihad Council](#) is responsible for making an assessment of the circumstances facing Hezbollah and deciding on which strategies and tactics should be employed. It's also responsible for laying out the general guidelines of Hezbollah's military units, particularly the **Islamic Resistance**, under the guidance of the Secretary General and the Shura Council. Take note that actual implementation of armed activity is left up to the party's military apparatus.

The Jihad Council's cadre are tasked with the responsibility to closely monitor and ensure execution of all military operations, screening & vetting of new recruits, logistics support, continuous training, recurring VIP protection, etc. The Council examines and identifies any threats facing the party or anything it deems to be dangerous to the Islamic umma (people), their imminence, and any means of putting up resistance to such adversaries.

Main threats to them include the United States, European Union Israel & Zionism as a whole, Saudi Arabia(Sunni), groups labeled "takfiri Sunni groups", and any "Westernized" which is any person or group taking on Western



cultural traits or religious beliefs. The confrontation of these dangers can come in many forms, ranging from armed conflict, unarmed political means and civilization jihad, in that they aim at “conquering” the state and society from the inside out such as in the case of Lebanon. This includes establishing an entire Islamic Caliphate, which its Shia ally Hamas is conducting CONUS by subverting U.S. system and institutions.

The Jihad Council is under the direct organizational control of the supreme body known as the Shura Council. It receives orders and operational directives from this single point of leadership, in which all political, social, and jihadi work is established. [Naim Qassem](#) explains that, “the same leadership that directs Hezbollah’s parliamentary and government work also leads jihad actions,” against Israel and the party’s other foes. “The Jihad Council also coordinates with and takes orders from Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). It also maintains a relationship with Syrian intelligence and, through them, with Lebanon’s intelligence directorates.”

Analyst Note: [Imad Fayeز Mughniyeh](#) (Arabic: عماد فايز مغنية; 7 December 1962 – 12 February 2008),^[1] [alias al-Hajj Radwan](#) (الحاج رضوان), was the founding member of [Lebanon’s Islamic Jihad Organization](#) and number two in [Hezbollah](#)’s leadership. **Information about Mughniyeh is limited, but he is believed to have been Hezbollah’s chief of staff and understood to have overseen Hezbollah’s military, intelligence, and security apparatuses. He was one of the main founders of Hezbollah in the 1980s. He has been described as "a brilliant military tactician and very elusive". He was often referred to as an ‘untraceable ghost’; he is now deceased, but one of Hezbollah’s special units is named after him, i.e [Radawan Unit](#).**

When the Jihad Council has assessed that armed action is a requirement, it escalates this recommendation to the **Shura Council** for approval. The **Shura Council**, in turn, obtains approval from the **Wali al-Faqih**, who has the final word on all such matters.

Under the Jihad council there is the Islamic Resistance. The **Islamic Resistance** “is the central part of Hezbollah’s “military wing,” it is under the direct control of the party’s Shura Council, particularly the Secretary General. It [consists](#) of two main branches: **Enforcement & Recruitment**, and **Combat**.”

“The **Enforcement & Recruitment** branch recruits fighters and provides them [ideological indoctrination](#), reinforcing their belief in **Wilayat al-Faqih** and the religious command to fight the party’s enemies. “

According to Alma Research there are at least [7 military units](#) within the Islamic Resistance as previously mentioned. The **"Haider"** unit operates in the area of the center of the Bekaa, the city of Belbach, and north of El Harmel. The **"Nasser"** unit operates in the western geographical sector from the border with Israel to the Litani River. The **"Bader"** unit operates in the western geographical sector north of the Litani River to Sidon. The **"Aziz"** unit operates in the eastern sector, from the border with Israel in the south to the western Bakaa area in the north. One of the unit’s commanders was Hassan Muhammad al-Hajj who was killed in Syria in October 2015

Finally, last, but not least, is the faction of Hezbollah we should be most concerned with from a counterterrorism law enforcement, intelligence and security perspective and that is “**The Security Organ**”.



The “**Security Organ**” network is commanded & headed by and is responsible for, carrying out terror attacks inside Lebanon, such as the assassination of Rafiq Al-Hariri and other Lebanese politicians, as well as terror attacks against Jews **around the world**, against Sunni Arab governments who are opposed to the Iranian regime (such as, Saudi diplomats, Emirs of Jordan & Kuwait), and against **any Western targets** that present themselves.

“This is Hezbollah’s most [clandestine and secret](#) unit, headed by a very experienced security specialist who is unquestionably loyal to **Secretary General Nassarala** and the **Shura Council**. It is divided into two branches: the **External Security Organization**, which carries out Hezbollah’s extraterritorial operations – including intelligence gathering and attacks – as well as the “**Party Security Organ**”, which handles counterintelligence, counter-espionage and internal security matters.”

For the purpose of this report Hezbollah's “**External Security Organization**” (ESO) or “**Unit 910**” and any sub-units like [Unit 133](#) which is the now defunct [Unit 1800](#) , Unit 400, and [Unit 3800](#) formed in 2003, they continue to operate in [Iraq](#) with the sole purpose of attacking the U.S. Bases and interests in the region.* (Update: 03 Nov 2023) (**U.S. bases recently hit multiple times by insurgent rockets and drones. Iranian supported proxies**) All these Units pose a direct threat to countries outside of Lebanon, including Syria, Iraq, South America, Europe and specifically the United States. ESO is trained directly and formally by Iran’s IRGC Quds Forces. ht

Iran’s IRGC Quds Forces are responsible for [extraterritorial](#) training and [operations](#),^[4] the Quds Force supports [non-state actors](#) in many countries, including [Hezbollah](#), [Hamas](#), [Palestinian Islamic Jihad](#), [Yemeni Houthis](#), and [Shia](#) militias in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. The predecessor of the Quds Force, known as '**Department 900**', was created during the [Iran–Iraq War](#) as a special intelligence unit, while the IRGC was allegedly active abroad in Afghanistan before the war. Iran established [Unit 400](#), which is the youngest element of the Iranian Quds Force. They have become very prominent and respected amongst IRGC Quds Force and Hezbollah circles of operations having conducted over 70 attack operations since about 2012. **Unit 400** is rumored to be directed operationally, and, also, personally by The *Supreme Leader*, **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**. Unit 400 was, at one point, commanded by **Eshmail Ghaani**, who replaced Iranian Major [General](#) and Commander of the [Quds Force](#) , [Qassem Soleimani](#) (1997/98–2020), Qods **Unit 400**, a wing of the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps](#) (IRGC), is responsible for IRGC foreign operations especially those in Lebanon. Ghaani was [Qassem Soleimani](#)’s former deputy, replacing Soleimani, only two hours post assassination. “The unit “**conducts sensitive covert operations abroad that include terrorist attacks, assassinations, kidnappings and sabotage**,” a U.S. official said. This demonstrates the level and quality of training Hezbollah Unit 910 members receive in exchange for allegiance to Iran.

Example of **Unit 400** operation in U.S:

“The United States uncovered [a plot to assassinate the Saudi Arabian Ambassador](#) inside Washington, D.C. that was also [tracked back to Unit 400](#). Federal Bureau of Investigation counterintelligence managed to infiltrate the operation and capture \$100,000 in transferred funds intended for the assassins. At that time, the Iranian operative was trying to hire what



he believed to be a Mexican drug cartel's agent to carry out the killings. In fact, their contacts were with the FBI. This led to the conviction of an Iranian-American, Mansour Arbabsiar, who pleaded guilty to the charges after the FBI arrested him."

"The existence of a tight specialized unit that is designed to carry out attacks far from Iran shows the importance of terrorism to Iranian foreign policy. Attacks such as the failed assassination are a high-risk strategy, given that they are directly attributable to Iranian agents. Iran can always proclaim innocence when Hezbollah or Shi'a militias in Iraq carry out terror attacks or commit war crimes. Presumably the attempt to hire a Mexican cartel to carry out an assassination on US soil was intended to create a similar sort of plausible deniability, enabling Iranian allies such as Russia to block diplomatic moves to punish the Islamic Republic."

[Unit 910](#) is the "External Security Organization " which, again is an elite, highly compartmentalized and therefore clandestine unit. It is commanded by *Senior operative and leader* **Talal Hamiyah**, the unit operates as the strategic arm of Hezbollah and IRGC Quds Forces Unit 400 . The ESO is also known as **Islamic Jihad Organization** (IJO) which arose and was established in 1983, shortly after Hezbollah's attack on the U.S. Marine Corps military Barracks in [Beirut, Lebanon](#). Between 1982 and 2005, Hezbollah was responsible for at least 200 terrorist attacks that killed several hundreds of people. Among these attacks were a number of kidnappings of Westerners (including CIA, *Chief of Station*, **William Buckley** kidnapped outside his Beirut Apartment building) and the 1983 suicide truck bombings in Beirut. In this attack, [Hezbollah killed 241 U.S.](#) military personnel, including **220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three (3) U.S. soldiers** utilizing a truck laden with explosives (**VBIED**) . Moments later they launched a second suicide bombing which killed **54 French allied para-troopers**. There were an [additional 7 innocent Lebanese civilians](#) killed.

[Unit 1800](#) is now defunct, it was disbanded in the 1990's at which time [Unit 133](#) was stood up and commissioned into service. Its latest leadership appears to be The ESO's main purpose is to serve as a covert and overt **deterrent** against Western nations and specifically against Israel and the U.S. In the past, the ESO was headed by [Mughniya](#) personally, however he was later killed in a clandestine CIA targeted operation. This killing was a long awaited result of his planning and participation of Bill Buckley's kidnap, torture and murder, demonstrating CIA memory and determination.

The ESO is a clandestine special unit within Hezbollah, its area of responsibility (AOR) is for intelligence collection, counterintelligence, procurement, pre-operational surveillance, planning, logistics, coordination, Target selection and the final execution of terrorist attacks staged against Hezbollah's enemies on the exterior of Lebanon. Due to its clandestine and sensitive nature, more detailed information about the organizational structure of the military wing is not available for unclassified reporting.

From what is known [Unit 910](#) is composed of specialty trained members. As opposed to other radicalized religious Lebanese Shiites like PFLP, or Fatah, Unit 910 operatives are said to have "always shaved their facial hair , do not visit any mosques or madrassas , and frequently establish short relationships with local women in the areas where they carry out their terror operations."



RECRUITMENT

At this time little is known about the groups recruitment process requirements, it's likely, distinctly, different from the main Hezbollah organization. It is believed that the ESO highly values new recruits that have dual citizenship, and who have access to passports, visas and or other documents such as (birth, travel, migration, citizenship records) from targeted Western countries. "[Recruits](#) are delivered to training using window-tinted vans, while heads are covered to prevent any leak of knowledge regarding the methodology of the ESO."

It's said that, a large majority of ESO operatives come from regular Lebanese families that have emigrated from Lebanon to South America or the United States many years ago, while some are natives who have converted to Sunni Islam or Shi'a Islam, and are eager to contribute to the "**struggle**" (jihad) while accepting the risks involved in providing such support to a designated terrorist organization. We refer to the latter as Homegrown Violent Extremist (HVE) in the U.S. This support can come in the form of different types such as financial, material, or direct operational support.

TRAINING

New recruits undergo two training stages at the hands of Hezbollah's regional reinforcement and recruitment officials. The first is called **ta'abia**, which lasts one year, where recruits are taught Hezbollah's ideology, interpretation of Islam, beliefs, and organizational culture. Graduating recruits then undergo a second stage, known as **intizam**, which also lasts one year. They are taught party discipline, and undergo physical and military training."

"Those who do not demonstrate the requisite military skills are sent to serve in the party's political and social units. However, recruits who excel at [military abilities](#) are then sent to the Combat section. Here, they are provided actual military training, including martial arts and hand-to-hand combat skills, marksmanship and rifle training, medical support, and weaponry usage."

"The recruit's [performance](#) during the training process, will directly correlate, in determining, which of the groups four combat Units he will be assigned to; Regular Infantry, Martyrdom Operations, Commandos/Special Forces (Air.Sea.Land), Rocket-Launchers or Motorman, or even further broken down- Motorcycle Assault, Air Assault, Water Borne-Small-Craft Assault, Drone Operator or Hacker. Each unit is a "[basic combat unit](#)" at its core and is a self-contained and semi-autonomous group, these groups communicate through a military Sector Commander, who in turn answers to a military Regional Commander – normally a member of Hezbollah's military operation H.Q. The Headquarters is under the direct control of the Shura Council and the Secretary General. According to [Alma's Hezbollah Structure report](#) several key leadership positions are currently vacant.

The ESO clandestine or blackOp operatives partake in a long and [complex security](#) skills process before they have been formally authorized as an official operative ready for deployment. Some of their special skills training



includes, pre-operational surveillance , undercover operations, sabotage techniques, assassination TTP, as well as combatives training, effective camouflage, and escape & evasion (E&E) techniques in case they are required to escape from any given location or country.” [Training](#) is divided into military, intelligence and ideological categories. It is carried out in camps in Lebanon and lasts an average of 6 years. Ideological training lasts 6 days, while the remaining training period is dedicated to [weapon and explosive handling and intelligence](#) tradecraft. Training camps [have](#) the capability of holding field exercises. This makes Hezbollah’s black ops capable of carrying out simultaneous training of multiple operatives.”

Since entering the Lebanese government in 1995, Hezbollah has been seeking to strengthen its public persona as a legitimate resistance movement and to shift its reputation as a terrorist group to that of being legitimate freedom fighters. This has resulted in the ESO operating completely independent of its parent organization.

This being the case, it reinforces Hezbollah’s need to distance the whole organization away from any activity that could be construed as terroristic in nature. This provides for almost complete plausible deniability. Moving forward, as a direct consequence, Hezbollah is unlikely to claim responsibility for a terrorist attack or acknowledge any of ESO’s activities, much like U.S. Intelligence Community Services. Likewise, if an ESO operative is detained, interviewed or interrogated by investigators he is highly **unlikely** to divulge any affiliation with Hezbollah however they may claim **Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO)**.

Also due to its highly secretive structure, little is known about the ESO’s links to other terrorist organizations. Hezbollah elements have provided training, operational support and material support to other Palestinian extremist groups, including the **Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)** and **Hamass Military wing** (Izz al-Din **al-Qassam Brigades**), and possibly **PFLP**, in addition to Shia militia elements in Iraq. ESO is also known to have worked with **Al Qaeda** in certain instances, in particular they may have assisted AQC following the 9/11/01 terror attacks with logistics .The group’s current leader is [Talal Hamiyah](#), previously a deputy of Mughniyah who was killed in 2008. Hamiyah was implicated in the 1992 and 1994 attacks in Argentina. The US State Department is offering a reward of up to \$7 million USD for information that leads to the location, arrest, and conviction in any country of Hamiyah.

Timeline of Key Events:

1. **April 1983:** Hezbollah carried out a suicide bombing against the U.S. embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 63 people, including 17 Americans.
2. **October 1983:** Hezbollah conducted a simultaneous suicide bombing against the U.S. Marine barracks and French paratrooper barracks in Beirut, killing 241 Americans and 58 French soldiers.
3. **1992** Israeli Embassy attack in Buenos Aires, killing 29, in [Argentina](#), Hezbollah operatives boasted of involvement.
4. **1994** AC Flight 901 attack, killing 21, in Panama. Hezbollah claimed responsibility.
5. **1994** London Israeli Embassy attack, injuring 29, in the United Kingdom



6. **1985** hijacking of TWA flight 847
- 7.
8. **July 1994:** Hezbollah carried out a bombing of the Jewish cultural center (AMIA) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85 people and injuring more than 200.
9. **March 1996:** Hezbollah conducted a bombing of the Khobar Towers complex in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 U.S. servicemen and injuring more than 300.
10. **June 2012:** Hezbollah operatives carried out a bombing of a bus in [Burgas](#), Bulgaria, killing 5 Israeli tourists and a [Bulgarian](#) bus driver.
11. **January 2015:** Hezbollah members carried out an attack on an Israeli military convoy in the disputed Shebaa Farms area, killing two Israeli soldiers.
12. **April 2016:** A Hezbollah member was arrested in Cyprus for planning attacks against Israeli interests on the island.
13. **May 2018:** A Hezbollah cell was uncovered in Thailand and authorities seized bomb-making materials and arrested two suspects.

—Other Suspected Attacks—

-In 1998, Providing “**direct assistance**” to **al Qaeda**, including training and explosives, in orchestrating the 1998 United States embassy bombings.

-In 2002, **Singapore** accused Hezbollah of recruiting Singaporeans in a failed 1990s **plot to attack** U.S. and Israeli **ships** in the **Singapore Straits**.

-The January 15, 2008, **bombing** of a U.S. Embassy vehicle in **Beirut**.

-In 2009, a Hezbollah **plot in Egypt** was uncovered, where Egyptian authorities arrested 49 men for planning **attacks** against **Israeli** and **Egyptian targets** in the Sinai Peninsula.

-The 2012 Burgas bus bombing, killing 6, in **Bulgaria**.

In July 2015, Cyprus jailed an **ESO operative**, after he pleaded guilty to stockpiling explosive materials. In May 2015, Cypriot authorities uncovered an ammonium nitrate cache—partially in the form of first-aid cold pack compress—cache was maintained under ESO direction. The cold packs in **Cyprus** were similar to those previously used in other suspected ESO operations.

In June 2017, two men were arrested in the United States (U.S.) for undertaking **terrorist activities** on behalf of the ESO. The men were allegedly involved in planning, and supplying material support on behalf of the ESO for attacks against Israeli and US targets. Both men had also allegedly received training from ESO.

-One man was charged with conducting surveillance on targets in the US. Targets included military and police



facilities, and Israeli military personnel in **New York**.

-The other was charged with conducting missions in Panama including surveillance at the Panama Canal and the US and Israeli embassies in Panama.

-In August 2015, the Kuwait Security Service arrested up to 26 members of the Al-Abdali terror cell for stockpiling munitions and armaments on behalf of Hezbollah. In January 2016, twenty-three members of the cell were found guilty of intent to carry out hostile acts against Kuwait. The methodology, including stockpiling of explosive components in preparation for hostile acts outside of Lebanon is consistent with ESO operational methods.

-Training Shia insurgents against US troops during the Iraq War

It is worth noting that Hezbollah has been designated as a terrorist organization by numerous countries and international organizations, including the United States, Canada, Israel, the European Union, and the Arab League. October 8, 1997, the United States created its Foreign Terrorist Organization list, pursuant to 1996's Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) and added Hezbollah to the first batch of designated groups. Twenty-two years later, the designation has been ineffective in weakening the group. In the two decades since, Hezbollah has continued to expand its global reach, becoming more of a critical player in Lebanon and in furthering Iran's radical ambitions.

- **1982**-Israel **Fully** Designates all entities of Hezbollah.
- **1997**-United States Designated [Hezbollah](#) a **Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)**; Organizations that are designated by the **Secretary of State** in accordance with **section 219** of the **"Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)**, as amended.
- **2001**-United Kingdom partially designates "The External Security Organ" (ESO) a portion of the group.
- **2004**-Netherlands **Fully** Designates all entities of Hezbollah.
- **2008**- United Kingdom **Fully** Designates the "Military Wing" of Hezbollah.
- **2009**- Egypt makes a proclamation.
- **2010**- New Zealand **Fully** Designates all entities of Hezbollah.
- **2013**- Bahrain **Fully** Designates all entities of Hezbollah
- **2013-2020**- Several other nations **Fully** Designate all entities of Hezbollah they are, European Union, Arab League Gulf Cooperation Council, U.K, Argentina, Paraguay, Honduras, Guatemala, Venezuela, Columbia, Kosovo, Germany, Serbia, Lithuania.

-SCOPE-

Ideologies: Hezbollah is an extremist Shia fundamentalist, Islamist, militant group based in Lebanon. Its ideology is rooted in the concept of [Wilayat al-Faqih](#)/velayat-e faqih, or **the guardianship of the Islamic**



jurist, I.E (rule of the jurisprudence), which grants supreme religious and political authority to the **most educated Shia clerics**. This ideology is also known as Khomeinism. All Hezbollah members subscribe to Khomeinist ideology, which is also a radical Shia Islamist Supremacist ideology .

“Khomeinism, the ideology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, encompasses the radical ideas of its founding father Ayatollah Khomeini. Anti Semitism is a central tenet of this ideology and the regime has repeatedly threatened to exterminate the Jewish State. As recently as March 7, 2021, Iranian DM Amir Hatami claimed that Tehran has the capacity to “turn Tel Aviv and Haifa into ashes”, writes Erfan Fard”.

The majority of Hezbollah members subscribe to the **“Twelver Shiism”** or “Mahdi Shia’ version or Sect of the Islamic religion. “Twelver Shiism” is the largest branch of Shiite Islam, with about 85 percent of Shiite adhering to the belief in the 12th Imam. **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini**, the father of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, was a Twelver. So is the current Supreme Leader, **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, and President **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**. They believe the 12th Imam will be resurrected and an Islamic caliphate will be born. They believe it’s their duty to expand & export this radical belief system. They have visions of conquering and ruling Israel, Syria, Iraq and others where they will implement Sharia Law and establish & expand the Caliphate across the world. They believe that this prophetic event can be helped to fruition by human beings. Therefore their prophecies can be assisted by man creating and waging war much like they have done with Israel when Hamas killed 1200 plus civilians and took over 200 civilian hostages.

Update & Analyst NOTE: 12/20/23- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Believes that he is actually the 12th Imam in the flesh and that his purpose is to fulfill this majestic role of the “12th Imam”, as such, he is currently Ideologically leading and fueling Iran’s offensive in the middle east against Israel and U.S. personnel and assets, while using militia proxy forces like Hezbollah (Syria/Gaza), Hamas, Houthi rebels (Yemen) as instruments of their war.

Hezbollah's main goals are to defend the interests of the Shia community in Lebanon and to resist any Israeli aggression in the region. It views Israel as an illegitimate occupier of Arab and Muslim lands and supports the Palestinian and Iranian cause.

Hezbollah's ideology also emphasizes the importance of social justice and the rights of the oppressed. The group provides a range of social services to the Shia community in Lebanon, including healthcare, education, and welfare, which has helped it gain significant support among the country's Shia population.

Analyst NOTE: Likewise, this highly socialist aspect of their operations has permeated and created a worldwide movement of established “ pro-Palestine groups” or sympathetic patrons, and especially U.S based “Islamic charities” that are similar to a stateside ‘fanbase’ for Hamas, who are becoming equally violently radicalized, especially in the United States and Europe. These groups (**SJP, USCPR, AMS, IAP, CAIR, MSA** and many others) (See Doc X) have a direct lineage to Hamas and indeed monies obtained from charities end up in the hands of Hamas terrorists. Hamas is currently spearheading the Israeli conflict



(11/17/23). * These U.S based groups although they seem innocuous now may play a significant role in potential future U.S homeland attacks.

“The group's ideology puts it at odds with Sunni Muslims, who generally do not recognize the concept of Wilayat al-Faqih and believe in the separation of religious and political authority. Sunnis also view Hezbollah's support for Iran, which is a Shia state, as a threat to the Sunni-dominated order in the region. Sunni countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, UAE and other Gulf states have opposed Hezbollah's activities and provided support to its enemies, particularly Israel. This ideological difference has contributed to sectarian tensions in the region and conflicts such as the ongoing civil war in Syria. However, despite Hezbollah and Al-Qaida like Sunni groups opposing each other, **there are documented instances where Hizbollah has supported Sunni terror groups such as Al-Qaida and others (vice versa) when the situation dictated such cooperation.**”

Analyst NOTE: Hezbollah is currently working in concert with Hamas. Hamas is a Sunni organization. Hamas is the Palestinian Branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Although both are muslim their ideologies differ, one being Shia and the other Sunni. They've set aside their differences so they can achieve their common goal of annihilating all Israelis and Jews and destroying the West.

–NORTH AMERICAN ACTIVITY–

The following is Matthew Levitt's "[Abstract](#)" to his published work "Volume 14, Issue 4 " *Breaking Hezbollah's 'Golden Rule': [An Inside Look](#) at the Modus Operandi of Hezbollah's [Islamic Jihad Organization](#)*"

"In September 2019, the U.S. The Department of Justice announced the arrest of [Alexei \(Ali\) Saab](#), a naturalized American citizen from Lebanon, on charges of marriage fraud and material support to the designated terrorist group Hezbollah. Saab reportedly served as an operative of Hezbollah's external terrorist operations wing, the Islamic Jihad Organization (also known as the External Security Organization or [Unit 910](#)). In this role, he carried out surveillance of potential target locations in several American cities to "prepare for potential future attacks against the United States."[1]

*[Saab's case](#) came on the heels of two others in the United States, including the conviction of [Ali Kourani](#) for engaging in similar [pre operational surveillance](#) for Hezbollah and an apparent plea-bargain for **Samer el-Debek** who was dispatched on Hezbollah missions abroad. Just a few years earlier, in 2012 and 2015, two Hezbollah operatives had been arrested in Cyprus. One was arrested for carrying out surveillance of Israeli tourists and other targets in Larnaca and Limassol, while the other was stockpiling ammonium nitrate for the production of explosives.*

Law enforcement officials learned much about Hizbollah's covert operations from these cases, including details being made public for the first time in this [article](#). Taken together, these cases - along with those



involving operatives in Thailand and Peru - illustrate Hezbollah's external operations modus operandi, senior handlers, communications techniques, travel patterns, terrorist training, and offer even limited information about the pay scale for Hezbollah operatives. Publicly disclosing such information breaks the "golden rule" of Hezbollah's Unit 910, as expressed to Kourani by his Hezbollah handler: "The less you know about the unit, the better." [2]"

Dr. Levitt, a Senior Fellow at The Washington Institute, recently testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives about how to disrupt Hezbollah financing and the terror funding network. His testimony can be found [HERE](#) or [HERE](#). In my opinion he's one of the United State's foremost experts on Hizbollah.

"In upstate New York, proceeds from another cigarette smuggling ring were used to fund the 2001 travels of the "[Lackawanna Six](#)" to an Al Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan. 11 Thirty individuals and a tobacco wholesale company were convicted in New York of felony charges as a result of their activities in this ring. **Open source reporting indicates that federal agents continue to investigate other terrorist-linked cigarette smugglers as well.**"

The most well-known operation linked to international terrorism was disrupted in July 2000, when authorities dismantled a cell operating in North Carolina, Michigan, and Canada. It was code named "[Operation Smokescreen](#)" It started in 1995 and ended in 2002. "That cell [sent money](#) earned through cigarette smuggling to Hezbollah for the purchase of night vision devices, global positioning systems, stun guns, and other items. By the time of their arrests, the [smugglers](#) had reportedly earned close to \$8 million, at least \$100,000 of which was funneled to Hezbollah."

In May 2005, **Los Angeles County** Sheriff [Lt. Stedman told the Senate that](#) "during the course of counterfeiting investigations in California, he gave "The following are just two examples: during the search of a residence pursuant to an IPR related search warrant, I saw small [Hezbollah flags](#) displayed in the suspect's bedroom. Next to the flags was a photograph of Hassan Nasrallah whom I recognized as the leader of Hezbollah. The suspect's wife asked me if I knew the subject of the photograph. I identified Nasrallah and the wife said, "We love him because he protects us from the Jews". Also in the home were dozens of audio tapes of Nasrallah's speeches. During the search, one of my detectives also found a locket which contained a picture of the male suspect on one side and [Sheik Nasrallah](#) on the other."

"In 2004, detectives served an IPR search warrant at a clothing store in **Los Angeles County**. During the course of the search, thousands of dollars in counterfeit clothing was recovered as were two unregistered firearms. During the booking process, the suspect was found to have a [tattoo of the Hezbollah](#) flag on his arm. "

In [2010](#), "Mexican authorities announced they had uncovered a Hezbollah cell in Tijuana operated by Lebanese-Mexican nationals and arrested **Jameel Nasr**, its leader. Nasr had previously traveled to Lebanon and



purportedly made frequent trips to other countries in **Latin America**, including a **two-month stay in Venezuela** in summer 2008.”

–MOST RECENT ACTIVITY–

Ali Kourani Convicted, receives 40 years prison for terror plot New York, BRONX

ALI KOURANI, a/k/a "Ali Mohamad Kourani," a/k/a "Jacob Lewis," a/k/a "Dani " and **Samer el Debek, 37**, of Dearborn, Michigan, aka, “Samer Eldebek,” were both brought up on [several charges](#) including financing terror, material support for terror, planning terror operations and [receiving military-type](#) training from a designated foreign terrorist organization. Kourani would be the most recent Unit 910 clandestine operative arrested, charged and convicted in the U.S. According to records. “Ali Kourani was recruited, trained, and deployed by Hizballah’s Islamic Jihad Organization to plan and execute acts of terrorism around [New York City](#). After spending years conducting surveillance on the [City’s critical infrastructure](#), federal buildings, international airports, and even daycare centers, he is now the first Islamic Jihad Organization operative to be convicted and sentenced for his [crimes against](#) the United States,” said U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman for the Southern District of New York. IJO assigned Kourani an IJO handler, or mentor, responsible for providing him with taskings, debriefings, and arranging training. Kourani sometimes communicated with his handler using coded email communications, including messages sent by the handler that informed Kourani of the need to return to Lebanon. In order to establish contact with his handler when Kourani returned to Lebanon, [Kourani](#) called a telephone number associated with a pager (the IJO Pager) and provided a code that he understood was specific to him. After contacting the IJO Pager, the handler would contact Kourani to set up an in-person meeting by calling a phone belonging to one of Kourani’s relatives. The IJO [also provided Kourani with additional training in tradecraft, weapons, and tactics](#). In 2011, for example, Kourani attended a weapons training camp in the vicinity of Birkat Jabrur, Lebanon, where he used a rocket- propelled grenade launcher, an AK-47 assault rifle, an MP5 submachine gun, a PKS machine gun (a Russian-made belt-fed weapon) and a Glock pistol. Based on other taskings from IJO personnel, which IJO personnel conveyed during periodic in-person meetings when Kourani returned to Lebanon, **Kourani conducted operations, which he understood to be aimed at preparing for potential future Hezbollah attacks**. These covert activities included searching for weapons suppliers in the United States who **could provide firearms to support IJO operations**; identifying individuals affiliated with the Israeli Defense Force whom the IJO could either recruit or target for violence; [gathering information](#) regarding operations and security at airports in the United States and elsewhere, including JFK International Airport in New York; and **surveilling U.S. military and law enforcement facilities in New York City, including the federal building at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan**. Kourani transmitted some of the products of his surveillance and intelligence-gathering efforts back to IJO personnel in Lebanon using digital storage media.” Samer el Debek, 37, of Dearborn, Michigan, aka, “[Samer Eldebek](#),” performed extensive work for Hezbollah, he took a plea deal.

Samer El Debek Convicted for terror plotting not sentenced yet. New York, BRONX

[ElDebek](#), a naturalized U.S. citizen, was first recruited by Hizballah in late 2007 or early 2008, began to receive a salary from Hizballah shortly thereafter, and was paid by Hizballah through approximately 2015. In July 2006,



shortly before he was recruited by Hizballah, el Debek expressed by email [his support for Hassan Nasrallah](#), the leader of Hizballah.

El Debek received military training from Hizballah in Lebanon on several occasions, from approximately 2008 through approximately 2014. El Debek received training in basic military tactics, the handling of various weapons, surveillance and counter-surveillance techniques, and the creation and handling of explosives and explosive devices. Based on information el Debek provided to the FBI, FBI [bomb technicians](#) have assessed that el Debek received extensive training as a bomb-maker, has a high degree of technical sophistication in the area, and was trained in techniques and methods similar to those used to construct the improvised explosive device used in Hizballah's 2012 Burgas, Bulgaria, bus bombing, a bombing that el Debek reported was carried out by a relative of his. El Debek received by email in 2010 a list of raw materials that could be sent from Syria or Dubai, including items often used in explosives and improvised explosive devices.

El Debek also conducted missions for Hizballah in Thailand and Panama. In May 2009, el Debek traveled from Lebanon, through Malaysia, to Thailand, where his mission was to clean up explosive precursors in a house in Bangkok that others had left because they were under surveillance. El Debek used his U.S. passport to enter and leave Thailand, consistent with his instructions from Hizballah to use his U.S. passport so he could travel from Malaysia to Thailand without obtaining a visa.

El Debek is charged with providing and [attempting to provide material support](#) to a designated foreign terrorist organization, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; conspiracy to provide material support and resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; receiving military-type training from a designated foreign terrorist organization, which carries a sentence of 10 years in prison or a fine; conspiracy to receive military-type training from a designated foreign terrorist organization, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison; possessing, carrying, and using firearms and destructive devices during and in relation to crimes of violence, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison; making and receiving a contribution of funds, goods, and services to and from Hizballah, in violation of IEEPA, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; and conspiracy to make and receive a contribution of funds, goods, and services to and from Hizballah, in violation of IEEPA, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

Alexei Saab was convicted May 2023 and only received a 12 year sentence

Alexei Saab was arrested in [2019](#) for the same types of activities as Kourani and El Debek above. Saab was a Lebanese citizen who obtained [American citizenship](#) after being recruited by Hezbollah. He attended a Hezbollah training camp before entering the United States **legally** and was **training in surveillance tactics and explosive construction**. Prior to his arrest and after providing 11 interviews with law enforcement, an airport he was traveling through detected firearms and explosives residue on his person and or effects. LE suspected he had just attended training requiring explosives handling.



Saab wrote a report on New York City targets for Hezbollah that included [federal buildings](#), the United Nations headquarters, the Statue of Liberty, Times Square, and the local airports, bridges and tunnels. In addition to New York City, he also surveilled sites in Washington, D.C., Boston, and Istanbul, Turkey. He was [convicted](#) in May of this year and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment.

NCTC Director Warns of Hezbollah Plots Targeting the United States Washington, DC, United States

September 21, 2021

*“In her testimony before the Senate’s Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, [Christine Abizaid](#), who directs the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, [warns](#) that Iran and its proxies are plotting ways to retaliate against the United States following the January 2020 targeted killing of IRGC Qods Force commander Qasem Soleimani. Abizaid further assesses that **Hezbollah maintains a “high threshold for conducting attacks in the Homeland.”** In subsequent testimony, Federal Bureau of Investigation director Christopher Wray asserts that Hezbollah seeks to establish “infrastructure in the United States,” based on recent FBI arrests.”*

State Department Issues Notice Sanctioning Hezbollah for Iranian Weapons Transfers Washington, DC, United States

August 9, 2021

“The U.S. Department of State issues a [notice of new sanctions](#) targeting Lebanese Hezbollah, Kataib Hezbollah, and Asaib Ahl al-Haq for violating Section 3 of the Iran, North Korea, and [Syria Nonproliferation Act](#). The act calls for penalties on states transferring or acquiring weapons from Iran, North Korea, or Syria, or otherwise indicating an intent to contribute materially to developing weapons of mass destruction or cruise or ballistic missile systems.

U.S. Intelligence Report Warns of Hezbollah Threat to U.S. Interests



United States, April 9, 2021

“In its [2021 Annual Threat Assessment](#) (pictured above), **the Office of the Director of National Intelligence assesses that Hezbollah “maintains the capability to target, both directly and indirectly, U.S. interests inside Lebanon, in the region, [and] overseas.”** The report, noting the “lesser” threat Hezbollah still poses **to U.S. targets**, contends that the intelligence community [expects Hezbollah to continue developing terrorist](#)



capabilities to employ as a deterrent and as “instruments of coercion” against its adversaries.” The report warns that Hezbollah’s efforts to push the United States out of Lebanon and the broader region have escalated following the January 2020 U.S. targeted killing of IRGC Qods Force commander Qasem Soleimani. The report notes that the U.S. intelligence community expects Hezbollah to continue developing terrorist capabilities to employ as a deterrent and as “instruments of coercion” against Hezbollah’s adversaries.

Homeland Security Report Assesses Hezbollah Could Quickly Advance an Attack Plot



Washington, DC, United States, July 28, 2022

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s 2022 Homeland Threat Assessment (pictured above), “the Government of Iran and one of its proxies, Lebanese Hezbollah[,] could advance an attack plot—with little to no warning—in response to heightened tensions.”

Mohammad Bazzi Charged with Money Laundering Conspiracy Michigan, January 27, 2023

[Mohammad Ibrahim Bazzi](#), a dual Lebanese-Belgian citizen and a [Specially Designated](#) Global Terrorist (SDGT), is charged with money laundering conspiracy and conspiracy to force a U.S. citizen to conduct unlawful transactions with an SDGT. According to the [U.S. Department of Justice](#), Bazzi and Lebanese citizen Talal Chahine “attempted to provide continued financial assistance to Hezbollah” by moving hundreds of thousands of dollars to Lebanon from the United States. Following Bazzi’s May 2018 designation by the **Department of the Treasury**, he conspired to force a U.S. citizen to liquidate certain assets in Michigan and transfer the proceeds to Lebanon.

Talal Chahine Charged with Money Laundering Conspiracy Michigan, January 27, 2023

[Talal Chahine](#), a Lebanese citizen, is charged with [money laundering conspiracy](#) and conspiracy to force a U.S. citizen to conduct unlawful transactions with a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. According to the U.S. [Department of Justice](#), Chahine and **Mohammad Bazzi**, a **Hezbollah financier**, “attempted to provide continued financial assistance to Hezbollah” by moving hundreds of thousands of dollars to Lebanon from the United States. Following Bazzi’s May 2018 designation by the Department of the Treasury, he and Chahine conspired to force a U.S. citizen to liquidate certain assets in Michigan and transfer the proceeds to Lebanon.

Nazem Said Ahmad and Associates Indicted for Conspiring to Defraud the United States, Evade U.S. Sanctions, and Conduct Money Laundering Transactions New York, NY, United States, April 18, 2023



[Nazem Said Ahmad](#) (pictured above), a suspected Hezbollah financier, and eight associates are charged with conspiring to defraud the United States and foreign governments, evade [U.S. sanctions](#), and conduct money laundering transactions. Ahmad and his co-conspirators exported hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of diamonds and artwork through corporate entities operating in [Belgium](#), Hong Kong, Côte d'Ivoire, Lebanon, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates to evade sanctions and fund Hezbollah activities.

U.S. Authorities Seize Thirteen Hezbollah-Affiliated Web Domains



Washington, DC, United States, May 11, 2023

The U.S. Department of Justice seizes [thirteen domains](#) used by sanctioned associates, businesses, and charities of Lebanese Hezbollah. According to court records, the seized domains include many registered to the group's al-Manar television, as well as multiple URLs for top officials, including [Deputy Secretary-General Naim Qassem](#), and affiliated charities. The websites are no longer accessible, and only an image from American authorities announcing that they have taken the domain name appears (pictured above).

-COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS CLASSIFYING U.S BASED OPERATIVES RECENT ACTIVITY-

According to a recent report from George Washington Institute, titled, “**HEZBOLLAH'S OPERATIONS AND NETWORKS IN THE UNITED STATES: TWO DECADES IN REVIEW**” by ANYSSIA S. KOKINOS, NAKISSA P. JAHANBANI, JON LEWIS, and DEVORAH MARGOLIN and contributor Matthew Levitt of The Washington Institute, June 2022. The authors report examines 128 U.S. criminal court cases filed against identified Hezbollah operatives. There are four(4) subject areas you can categorize and classify Hezbollah's operational activity. The financier category consists of money launderers/bundlers/fraudsters and goods smugglers, all of whom raised funds for Hezbollah or directly provided or transferred funds to the group.

“● **Money Launderers/Bundlers/Fraudsters** make up **29% (35 individuals)** of the dataset and include individuals who committed fraud, sent or laundered funds for Hezbollah, often in connection with drug proceeds, tobacco proceeds, or proceeds from the sale of electronics.

● **Goods Smugglers makeup 58% (74 individuals)** of the dataset and include those who smuggled or provided non-monetary support of goods to Hezbollah or Hezbollah-linked organizations or individuals. Examples include drugs, electronics, and stolen goods. The operational category consists of human smugglers, travelers, weapons procurers, and surveillance operatives, all of whom carried out activities that furthered the operational goals of the group.

● **Human Smugglers make up 1% (1 individual)** of the dataset and consist of individuals who illegally transported other individuals across state and international borders.



• **Weapons Procurers make up 8% (12 individuals)** of the dataset and include individuals who provided weapons or military equipment for Hezbollah.

• **Travelers make up 1.5% (3 individuals)** of the dataset and refers to individuals who traveled or attempted to travel abroad to join Hezbollah. 34 As the methodology notes, while no individuals in this dataset have been accused of plotting a domestic terror attack, several have engaged in pre-operational surveillance efforts to allow Hezbollah to carry out attacks in the U.S. Kokinos et al. || June 2022 16

• **Pre-Operational Surveillance makes up 2.5% (3 individuals)** of the dataset and refers to individuals who collected operational information like potential targets, target security, and other details for future domestic plots on behalf of Hezbollah. “

Figure C. Categories of Activity

The following section explores some of the case studies that make up the two primary categories of participation. **Financier Category Overview** Financiers are by far the most represented category within this dataset, which further supports assessments that Hezbollah's primary aspirations in the United States are financial in nature. This category encompasses a wide range of Hezbollah supporters' activities, whose ultimate goal was to provide financial support to the organization.

As noted, 92% of all cases in this dataset were part of networks, with large hubs in Michigan, California, New York, and North Carolina. The abundance of financial networks in such cases contributes to the high percentage of financiers observed in this study. 17

North Carolina — where the cigarette tax was only 5 cents per pack — to Michigan — where the cigarette tax was 75 cents per pack — while passing along some of its profits to Hezbollah.35

Figure D. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin36

However, just because a financial network's illicit activities benefited Hezbollah, does not mean that every individual in the network held strong ideological support for the organization.

Tactics: Hezbollah tactics vary depending on what division or Unit you are assigned to. Currently at the time of this final report (11/03/2023) there is armed conflict between the **Israeli IDF, Hamas** and Hezbollah who are playing a supportive role to Hamas against Israel. On 07 October 2023, **Hamas** launched a pre-emptive, full blown assault, from multiple fronts (Air, Sea,cLand), using an estimated thousand foot soliders(1000), which resulted in a total massacre, killing over 1400 Israeli civilian citizens, including raping woman, killing children, decapitating and burning corpses of innocent unarmed Jews and even killing house pets. Interviews with captured terror suspects revealed that the Hamas foot soldiers were provided specific instructions to rape, torture. Murder (shoot) and kidnap several hundred,which included 22 Americans. Special Units like 910 use many different types of tactics compared to their “Military Brethren ” that are easily identifiable uniformed soldiers who use “guerrilla tactics' '. Military is overt, while 910 and others are covert.



They do not wear uniforms. It is highly likely that they deploy similar type tradecraft that would be expected from any well trained intelligence apparatus. It has been said that several 100's of Unit 910 members have received special training from Iranian Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) "Quds Force " and Iranian Ministry Of Intelligence Services (MOIS). These two organizations are highly likely training Unit 910 in advanced special weapons handling, explosive handling, improvised explosive building, assassination, kidnap & ransom operations, basic and advanced espionage, advanced surveillance techniques, counter-surveillance, sabotage, counter-sabotage, forced & surreptitious entry techniques, combatives, creating target packages, and austere environment training to be employed outside of Lebanon. If history is any indicator. Hezbollah is particularly fond of explosives. The methods in which they deploy them are many. One of the most prominent uses is via vehicle borne improvised explosive (VBIED).

They have successfully used this tactic in many high profile attacks, especially in large trucks which carry a bigger payload of mixed Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil (ANFO) charges. Explosives have also come in the form of regular homebuilt IED and self detonated suicide vests used by (Shehad) that are normally exploded by the wearer upon proximity to target. Suicide bombing is less common in recent years, but always an option as Hezbollah followers believe martyrdom will bring them paradise and 72 virgins. The use of explosives in home built rockets is popular in Lebanon for use against the IDF and other theaters like Syria & Iraq. They also have the capability to use unmanned aerial systems (UAS) filled with explosives to ram and explode on a target or have the UAS release and drop separate explosive ordinances on a target observed and acquired via UAS's camera. Unit 910 is likely trained on how to conduct a one man attack "Mumbai Style" whereas a terrorist conducts an attack on a private/public heavily occupied establishment (soft-target) such as farmers market, concert venue, post-office etc using small arms tactics.

"Hezbollah has a notorious history of taking Western [hostages](#) during Beirut's civil war," the FBI summarized in a 1994 report. "Between 1982 and 1991, Hezbollah abducted and held at least 44 Western hostages, including 17 U.S. persons, three of whom died while in [captivity](#)." One of those three was the CIA's Bill Buckley. "Hezbollah leaders now believe that taking Western hostages is counterproductive," the FBI noted, adding the caveat that "certain elements within the group continue to argue for the resumption of the kidnappings." Those "certain elements," it is widely believed, were Mughniyeh and other members of Hezbollah's hardline faction. Subsequently, Mughniyeh was targeted by Israel and terminated.

I should also make note of Hezbollah's cyber-attack capabilities which are formidable. They frequently cause website vandalism and defacement, launch DDoS attacks, malware attacks and much more.

Targets: Hezbollah has primarily been known to target Israeli and Jewish targets in Israel or as they travel to and from other countries, as they are their primary targets. [Unit 133](#) is currently commanded by *Senior Hezbollah operative Muhammad Ataya*; its former leader **Hajj Khalil Harb** became a supreme advisor. **Ataya** is tasked with targeting Jews within Israeli borders. as they did in this case where two Israelis were [gunned down](#) in broad daylight. Hezbollah much like Hamas wishes to completely eradicate the Israeli population off of the face of the



map. In turn, they'd create an Islamic Caliphate, where Shiara Law would rule the lands. They also target Western assets and wish for the U.S and European governments to stop meddling in the region (middle-east). Hezbollah's disdain for Western influence and involvement can be seen all the way back to the 1980's when they attacked the Marine Corp barracks as previously mentioned.

"Over the last few years, Hezbollah has made several [attempts to carry](#) out bomb attacks, as well as sniper attacks and other forms of terror attacks in various arenas (Azerbaijan, [Thailand](#), Turkey, South America, Egypt, southern Europe, etc.). Those attempts were foiled thanks to the determined and [concerted](#) efforts of [intelligence organizations](#) around the world." Any U.S. overseas asset is considered fair play for Hezbollah. However, more recently after **Ali Muhhamad Kourani** was picked up, Hezbollah is now targeting the U.S homeland for **certain** based on his interview statements and based on several U.S. intelligence estimates. Additionally, Hezbollah is a direct proxy-arm of Iran. Hezbollah is considered a leverage tool for Iran to use in negotiation with the West. In simple terms, if the United States doesn't comply with certain Iranian Government requests or if we don't lick the boot, Iran has the option to launch a Hezbollah or Hamas attack within the U.S territories.

Analyst Note: (10 October 2023): Al Qaeda (AQ) issued a 3 page communique vowing support of Hamas & Hezbollah terrorist operations; During current Hamas/Israeli conflict in Gaza.; Authorized all supporters to specifically target Western U.S Targets; Specifically-U.S Embassies, U.S. Military bases/installations & Airports

ANALYST FURTHER NOTATIONS: Since this assessment started 5/01/23 and the subsequent Hamas attack on Israel occurred (10/07/23). FBI director Christopher Wray has made several public statements with regard to the current heightened threat landscape and terrorist operational activity outlook. Several LE/Intel focused publications have reported that 'increased vigilance' is very much warranted by the Law enforcement, Military, Intelligence and Security and Civilian communities. All the open-source information (OSIF) compiled in this product will likely lead everyday professionals and experts alike to believe that Hezbollah and or Hamas, Al-Qaeda, Al Shabab's operational capabilities in the United States and Europe are extremely **HIGH**. This is despite taking down several operatives in the U.S.

UPDATE: 12/20/23-Media announced that President Joe Biden and his administration had negotiated a deal with Venezuela who is a key strategic ally of Iran. Venezuela's Maduro and Iranian leaderships and diplomats have had long standing relations. Quds Forces have trained members of the FARC and other militant groups in Venezuela. The two countries swap regularly, petroleum for military equipment, weapons and training and help each other by providing visas, passports, birth certificates and they also launder money. Previously I mentioned ALEX SAAB. He was convicted in May 2023 in the U.S. District Court of being a member of Hezbollah and an ESO Operative. He has



now been traded in exchange for 10 U.S. captives of Venezuela. None of the media reports indicate SAAB is a convicted Hezbollah terrorist who received a 12 year sentence.

The current landscape with the United States and Israel openly conducting negotiations with terror designated persons and entities, leaves plenty of opportunity for any of these terror groups to launch multiple coordinated attacks (possibly simultaneous) stateside against multiple targets, in any U.S state territory. There only need be one single grievance perceived by Hamas/MB/Iran or any failure on our part to successfully negotiate release of hostages; or if Israel fails to stop the bombardment of Gaza with explosives ordinance (ceasefire). Any of these items could be the cause for Iran to initiate and execute a targeted, U.S. based attack, utilizing its primary proxy force (Hezbollah) and its vast network of resources including other jihadist all likely on speed dial.

Assessment Period: 05/01/2023-02/05/2024

Intelligence Product by:

Jesse Robert, ATO-II, CAS, CPO, CCI, ILO,TLO

Counterintelligence & Digital Targeting Officer

Counterterrorism Intelligence Analyst, J.r, (All Source) Multi-INT-INTERN

Counterintelligence Office-(**Special Activities Directorate**)

About The Author

Jesse Robert is currently a U.S based, multi-disciplined, transitioning career, security professional. He has primarily worked in the DoD/DoE/DoS Industrial Security Operations/ Management space for the last 20+ years. Most of his professional career consisted of subcontracting to the U.S Government Raytheon Corporation,Bechtel through AUS, SA-Tech, Xe Services & Pinkerton Government Services. Jesse is a certified Anti-terrorism Officer & Specialist through ATAB, DCSA and the S-2 SafetyInstitute. Jesse is truly multi-disciplined and has been awarded many times for performance. His primary security disciplines are Physical Security Operations, Intelligence Collection, Investigations, Open Source Intelligence and Ant-terrorism. His sub-specialties include Counterterrorism and Counterintelligence. He is currently studying at American Military University (AMU) to complete his bachelors in "Intelligence Operations" with a minor in Latin American studies.

This product was written on private time utilizing private resources while under internship @ **The Counterterrorism Group** however this doesn't constitute endorsement by CTG. The views & opinions in this product are that of the author's only.